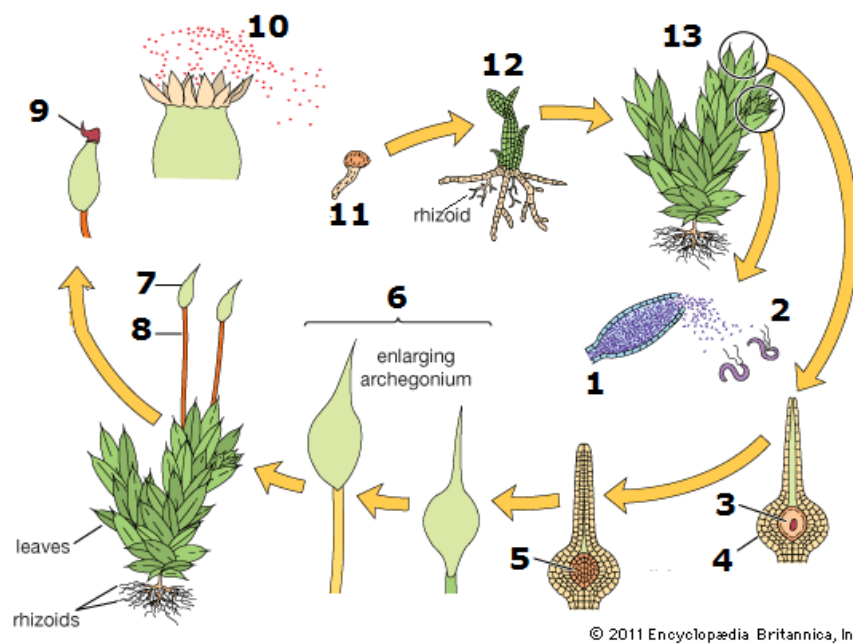
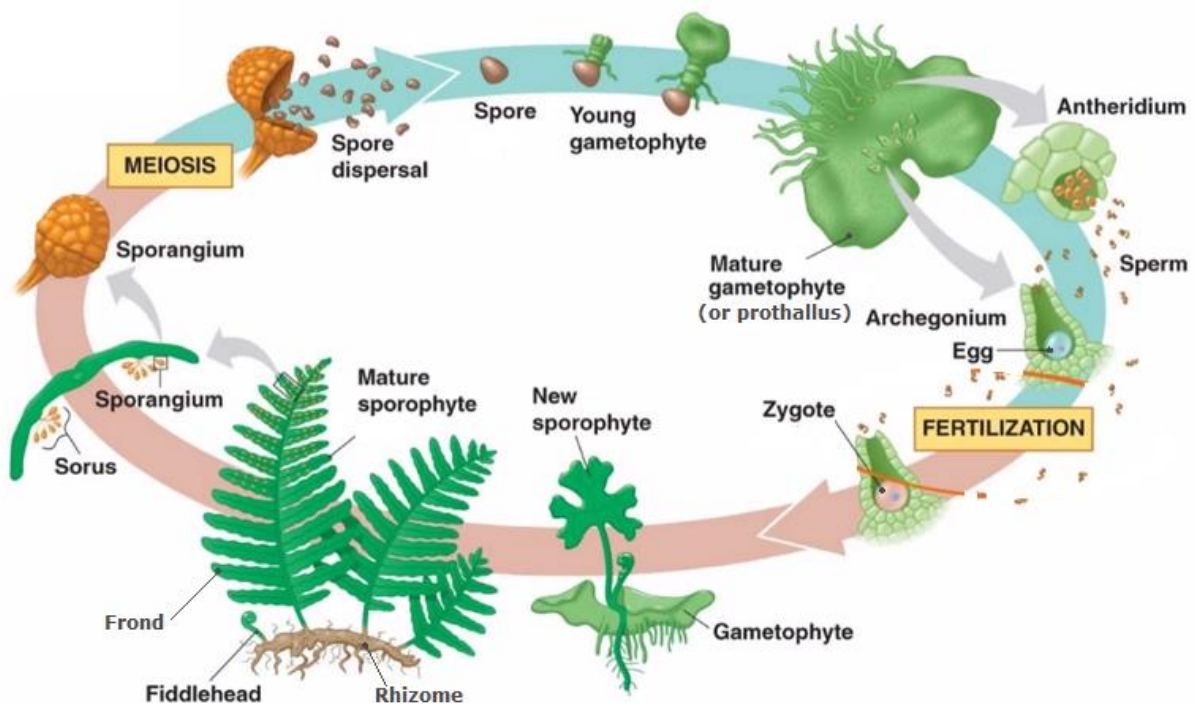


LIFE CYCLE OF MOSSES AND FERNS



The life cycle of most mosses begins with the release of spores [], which opens when a small, lid-like structure, called the operculum, [] degenerates. A single spore germinates [] to form a branched, filamentous protonema [], from which a leafy gametophyte [] develops. The gametophyte bears organs for sexual reproduction. Sperm which are released by the mature antheridium [] (the male reproductive organ) are attracted into the neck of an archegonium [] (the female reproductive organ with the shape of a bottle). Here, one sperm [] fuses with the egg to produce the zygote [] and, later, the embryo []. After cell division, the zygote becomes the sporophyte []. The sporophyte usually consists of a capsule and a seta []. Asexual reproduction occurs within the capsule and the whole process may begin



ACTIVITIES:

1. Identify the numbered parts in the moss cycle.
 2. Try to describe the cycle of a fern.
 3. Identify the concepts which are defined below.
 4. Say and write the differences and similarities between both cycles.
 5. Divide both cycles in a sexual phase and in an asexual phase.
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- a. Furled fronds of a young fern
 - b. Large compound leaf of a fern
 - c. Thick horizontal underground stem of plants
 - d. Reproductive body of asexual reproduction that may be adapted for dispersal
 - e. Cell resulting from the union of an ovule and a spermatozoon